

WE CLAIM:

1. A buoyant boom comprising:
an elongate band extending across a water surface;
a plurality of floats rotatably mounted to the band;
a plurality of rotary bearings disposed between the floats and the band; and
a plurality of anchors having a first end secured to the band and a second end anchored to a support.
2. A buoyant boom according to claim 1 wherein the bearings comprise an annular bushing.
3. A buoyant boom according to claim 2 wherein the bushing includes a radially projecting flange on an outer end thereof.
4. A buoyant boom according to claim 2 wherein the bushing is split longitudinally.
5. A buoyant boom according to claim 2 wherein the bushing comprises UHMW polyethylene.
5. A buoyant boom according to claim 2 wherein the bearing includes an elongate sleeve disposed between the band and the bushing, and a clamp securing the sleeve to the band to prevent relative movement between the sleeve and band.
6. A buoyant boom according to claim 5 wherein the sleeve includes a notched end.

7. A buoyant boom according to claim 5 wherein the sleeve includes a radially extending collar abutting an outer end of the bushing.

8. A buoyant boom according to claim 2 wherein at least one float comprises an elongate tube disposed about the band, and wherein at least one bushing is disposed within the tube.

9. A buoyant boom according to claim 1 wherein at least one float comprises an outer shell with opposing end walls each having an opening through which the band extends.

10. A buoyant boom according to claim 9 wherein the shell is filled with buoyant foam.

11. A buoyant boom according to claim 10 wherein the foam comprises polyurethane foam having a density no greater than 2.5 lbs. per cu. ft.

12. A buoyant boom according to claim 9 wherein the shell and tube are metal.

13. A buoyant boom according to claim 1 wherein the band is selected from components consisting of: metal wire rope; metal chain; metal bar stock; a safety link having tensile capacity less than that of the remainder of the band; a shackle; a wire

rope thimble; wire rope clamps ; a spelter socket; chain linkage; twisted fiber rope; and braided rope.

14. A buoyant boom according to claim 1 comprising at least one end anchor securing an end of the band to the support.

15. A buoyant boom according to claim 1 comprising at least one intermediate anchor securing a middle portion of the band to the support.

16. A buoyant boom according to claim 15 wherein said intermediate anchor comprises an anchor float.

17. A buoyant boom according to claim 15 wherein said intermediate anchor comprises a metal rod embedded in a grouted hole drilled into said support.

18. A buoyant boom according to claim 17 wherein said intermediate anchor comprises a wire rope with a swaged threaded connector and the metal rod has an outer threaded end secured thereto with a splice connector.

19. A buoyant boom according to claim 18 wherein said swaged threaded connector, and splice connector are embedded in the grouted hole.

20. A buoyant boom according to claim 17 wherein said intermediate anchor comprises a base plate rotatably mounted to an outer end of the metal rod.